



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes 4\_15\_12

**AYHSC Minutes – April 12, 2012**

**5:30-7:00pm**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room ~ *Community Safety Building***

**I. Welcome:** (13) Carlene Newell, Ethel Doyle, Rebecca Wolfe, Ned Walsh, Karen Dillon, Jack Flood, Kathy Hirsch, John Scheft, Cindy Sheridan, Laura Juitt, Kym Spencer, Lynn Horgan, Colleen Leger.

### **II. Upcoming Trainings and Events**

Marijuana Prevention Summit: Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> (8:00am-4:30pm); Shrewsbury, MA

The Massachusetts Prevention Alliance (MAPA) is offering this summit as a mobilization effort to bring a wide range of concerned and committed citizens from across the state together. The summit will provide an overview of Marijuana legalization efforts and provide the participants with knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to effectively advocate on a sector, local and statewide level to defeat marijuana legalization in Massachusetts.

#### Drug Take-Back Events

April 28, 2012 (10:00am-1:00pm) at the Community Safety Building

May 12, 2012 (9:00am-1:00pm) at the DPW Town Yard

Temporary Liquor License Training Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> (5:00-7:00pm)

Plans are underway to enhance regulation policy for temporary license permits. The Coalition will be working with Town counsel, the Board of Selectman and the Police Department to strengthen these policies. Location TBD.

#### Join Together

This site offers daily and breaking news, research briefs and in-dept feature articles on drug and alcohol issues. You can register for daily or weekly e-newsletters at [www.drugfree.org/enewsletters](http://www.drugfree.org/enewsletters).

### **III. Coalition Updates**

#### Marijuana and the Adolescent Brain

On April 2, 2012, several Coalition members attended this conference, offered by the Middlesex Partnership for Youth at Middlesex Community College, Lowell. The program offered perspectives from several presenters. One presenter, Dr. Bertha Madras, spoke on a number of health risks associated with marijuana use, including the effects of marijuana on brain development, the association between marijuana use and certain mental illnesses, risks associated with early use and frequent use, and the addictiveness of marijuana in comparison to other substances. Dr. Madras also spoke about the increased potency of marijuana, the rising number of adolescents in treatment for marijuana, the rising number of ER visits with marijuana mentions, and findings that show that marijuana use before the age of fifteen increases risk of later cocaine or heroin use. Finally, Dr. Madras spoke about the MA Prevention Alliance, and efforts to prevent the passage of a medical marijuana program in MA. Another presenter, Rich Catrambone, the Prevention Intervention Counselor at Newton South High School, provided information on school chemical policies, such as the "three person rule". This process provides a tool for teachers and staff to use if they suspect a student is under the influence at school. The evaluation captures the observations of three separate staff on the behaviors and actions of students suspected of substance use. At Newton South, this tool is used to enforce

consequences for violations of the school's substance use policies. Members discussed the usefulness of this tool and the protocols in place at Arlington High. Plans are in place to share this tool with AHS administrators and nursing staff. Cindy confirmed that attorneys in Newton have vetted this model. John offered to contact a colleague who is a drug recognition expert and identify his willingness to share knowledge or provide training to Arlington school staff members.

#### Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

The 2011 Arlington High School YRBS results have arrived. Colleen offered survey highlights to Coalition members with clarification that formal results will be made available in the near future.

The survey covers a broad range of health topics such as; substance use, self-harm and suicidality, nutrition and physical fitness, bullying, and social and emotional health. Coalition members discussed the importance of sharing the YRBS results with administration, school committee and parents/youth in the community. Discussion ensued around marijuana education, risk behaviors, early experimentation and drug access/availability.

#### Parent Forums

Lynn highlighted plans to pilot the Navigating the Teen Years model (formerly known as Table Talks) to parents of 5-8<sup>th</sup> grade students on 4/24 and 4/30 in the Media Center at the Ottoson Middle School. Coalition and community members have offered to act as facilitators for the small group discussions that will take place at the forums. Lynn expressed thanks to Coalition members who have assisted with promotion of this program and stated she would email the agenda/format to interested members for review.

#### Project Proposals

Parent Tweets and Retailer Education were tabled for future discussion.

#### **IV. AHS Social Norms Designs**

Students from Computer Aided Drafting and Design (CADD) classes at AHS have completed and presented their designs for the second AHS social norms campaign, based on the national Above the Influence campaign. Colleen informed Coalition members that there would be an opportunity to review, vote and comment on draft designs at the next Coalition meeting.

#### **V. Meeting Adjournment:** Next meeting scheduled for May 17, 2012